

## Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10  
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00  
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02  
OMB-01 DOE-15 JUSE-00 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12  
NEA-11 /169 W

-----100428 161659Z /43

P 161514Z JUN 78  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0934  
INFO AMEMBASSY SUVA  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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USMTN

PASS STR, STR PASS CODEL

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MTN, ETRD, FJ, NZ  
SUBJECT: MTN: REQUESTS FROM TONGA

REF: (A) GENEVA A-76, (B) GENEVA A-173

1. FOLLOWING UP ON VISIT OF TONGANESE OFFICIAL TO GENEVA  
IN FEBRUARY REPORTED REF A, GOT HAS DESIGNATED AS THEIR  
GENEVA REPRESENTATIVE FOR REMAINDER OF MTN JOHN GERO OF  
COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT GENEVA OFFICE AND HAS SUBMITTED  
A REQUEST LIST TO THE US UNDER THE PROCEDURES OF GROUP  
AGRICULTURE. (SEE REF B.) DURING CONSULTATION WITH TONGA  
GENEVA REP, FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS DEVELOPED CONCERNING  
THEIR REQUESTS, ON NONE OF WHICH TONGA IS A PRINCIPAL OR  
SUBSTANTIAL SUPPLIER IN US MARKET:

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A. TUNA (TSUS 112.30, 112.34, 112.90, 113.56) WHILE TONGA  
DOES NOT HAVE A FISHING FLEET OR CANNERY AT PRESENT TIME,  
GIVEN LARGE SIZE OF ITS' TERRITORIAL WATERS, WHICH ARE  
RICH IN FISH RESOURCES, REQUEST FOR DUTY ELIMINATION WAS  
MADE IN DESIRE TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTORS;

B. FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (TSUS 137.10 PEPPERS, 137.60, 137.62, 137.63, TOMATOES; 137.86, OTHER VEGETABLES; 141.66 TOMATOES, PREPARED AND PRESERVED, 141.81, OTHER VEGETABLES, 146.40 BANANAS, 148.20 WATERMELONS, 152.76 FRUIT PASTE AND PULPS, (PASSION FRUIT)) REQUEST WAS FOR BOTH ELIMINATION OF DUTY AND TERMINATION OF LICENSING REQUIREMENTS MAINTAINED BY AMERICAN SAMOA. TONGA DEL SAID AMERICAN SAMOA WAS A PRINCIPAL TONGA MARKET FOR FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, BUT THAT AMERICAN SAMOA REQUIRED PRIOR IMPORT LICENSES. THESE LICENSES WERE FOR OTHER THAN HEALTH AND SANITARY PURPOSES, AND WERE REPORTEDLY EASILY ISSUED FOR WATERMELONS, BUT NOT FOR OTHER PRODUCTS SUCH AS TOMATOES AND GREEN PEPPERS.

C. FLOOR COVERING AND LUGGAGE AND HANDBAGS OF LEATHER (360.10, 360.15 AND 706.08) REQUESTS WERE BASED ON NEW PRODUCTION WHICH WAS BEING UNDERTAKEN.

2. TONGA DEL ALSO REFERRED TO REQUEST IN COVERING LETTER, WHICH HAD ALSO BEEN MENTIONED DURING VISIT REPORTED REF A, THAT SOME PROCEDURE BE DEVELOPED IN WHICH THE US COULD GIVE ASSURANCES OF MARKET ACCESS TO PRODUCTS PRODUCED BY NEW FOREIGN INVESTORS IN TONGA AS A FORM OF INVESTMENT INCENTIVE. US MTN DEL NOTED BEST INVESTMENT INCENTIVE WAS BOUND MFN TARIFF RATES, WHICH THE US WAS SEEKING TO NEGOTIATE DURING CURRENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS.  
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3. TONGA REP WAS ALSO CONCERNED THAT TONGA, WHICH WAS A "DE FACTO" GATT PARTICIPANT, MIGHT HAVE ITS EXPECTATION OF MFN IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFEGUARD ACTIONS UNDER ARTICLE XIX NEGOTIATED AWAY IF A SELECTIVE TRACK WAS APPROVED IN SAFEGUARD CODE NEGOTIATIONS. TONGA REP WAS NOT CONCERNED WITH SUCH ACTIONS IN US MARKET, BUT RATHER IN NEIGHBORING NEW ZEALAND MARKET IN WHICH TONGA EXPORTS OF A FEW ITEMS COULD CONCEIVABLY TRIGGER SAFEGUARD ACTIONS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: A. US MTN DEL NOTES THAT IN TSUS AMERICAN SAMOA IS NOT CONSIDERED WITHIN THE "CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF THE UNITED STATES." PLEASE ADVISE IF TARIFF REDUCTIONS NEGOTIATED IN MTN WILL BE APPLICABLE IN AMERICAN SAMOA.

B. US MTN DEL WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON RESPONSE TO TONGA'S REQUEST ON PRIOR IMPORT LICENSING OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN AMERICAN SAMOA.

5. DRAFTED BY KNEPPER. MCDONALD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRADE, EXCEPTIONS LIST  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978GENEVA09151  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2325915  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MTN: REQUESTS FROM TONGA  
**TAGS:** ETRD, FJ, NZ, MTN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/6c26e287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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